

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated July 15, 2004, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. Claims 1 – 11 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as anticipated by the Steele, U.S. Patent 4,973,794. In response, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify the invention and new claim 12 has been added. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Steele discloses a cable assembly for an electrical signal transmission system which includes a plurality of conductors. Each of the conductors is individually encased in a dielectric layer, and a conductive shield is provided over the dielectric layer surrounding each conductor. Each of the conductors are therefore individually shielded, coaxial cables (see column 4, lines 34 – 40). The individually-shielded cables are then embedded in a dielectric material to form a ribbon-like cable, and the ribbon cable is wrapped in a double conductive shield.

Claims 1 and 7, as amended, clarify that the flexible ribbon cable employed in the present invention consists solely of a plurality of parallel electrical conductors embedded in an insulating material. The electrical conductors are not individually shielded, and are not coaxial cables. The cable is then wrapped in first and second conductive shields. This construction reduces the cost of and increases the flexibility of the cable as compared to the coaxial cable employed by Steele, while providing shielding from electromagnetic interference at performance levels near those of coaxial cable. As recited in claim 7, the conductors can further be connected such that conductors carrying signal returns alternate with conductors carrying signals such that the signal carrying conductors are effectively

surrounded by separate shields, rather than actually surrounded by such shields. This configuration is also not disclosed by Steele.

The Steele reference, in fact, does not disclose any construction in which a non-coaxial ribbon cable is used. As described above, the described invention relies on individually-shielded, coaxial ribbon cable. At column 2, lines 35 – 57, a number of different constructions are discussed. Each of these solutions also relies on the use of individually shielded cables, exactly the configuration the present invention seeks to avoid. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 7, as amended, are distinguished over the cited reference, and the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 7, along with associated dependent claims 2 – 6 and 8 – 11 be withdrawn.

New claim 12 and dependent claims 4 and 10 as filed each recite the use of a pleated metal foil shield. In the Office Action it is asserted that pleated shields are disclosed in Figs. 1 – 3. The Applicants, however, do not find a pleated foil shield in Figs. 1 – 3. Furthermore, Steel does not discuss a pleated metal foil anywhere in the specification. Claims 4, 10, and new claim 12 are therefore also believed patentable over the cited references. If the rejection of these claims is maintained, the Applicants respectfully request clarification as to where the pleated metal foil is found in the reference.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 – 11, as amended, are patentable over the cited reference, and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 – 11 be withdrawn. In addition, new claim 12 is also believed to recite patentable subject matter. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that a notice of allowance for claims 1 – 12 be issued.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR Section 1.17 that may be due on this application to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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